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JOURNAL OF SAMUEL ROWLAND FISHER, OF
PHILADELPHIA, 1779-1781.

CONTRIBUTED BY ANNA WHARTON MORRIS.

(Continued from page 197.)

2 mo: 8th. We have not kept any stated meetings which probably may seem to arise from want of our having such an attentive inward care to our own situation as becomes us; some of our friends have kindly hinted to us that it would be well for us not to expect or wait for a clearer sense of duty moving us thereto—this caused me to reconsider the matter & I have not yet seen it to be my duty to desire my Companions to sit down together in silence. I have several times conversed with one of them & informed him that I have no objection in my mind thereto & I find he also has no objection in his mind, the other two have never said any thing thereon & I am much the youngest in the room—many of our friends have come & had sittings with us, I hope to our mutual satisfaction—Almost every day we have the Company of some of our friends & acquaintance—Many of our evenings we have employed in reading, I hope to mutual benefit, some in silent reflection, some I trust in instructive conversation, for my own part when I consider that I am held by many of my friends in the City, not to be suffering for any thing but my own imprudence & having felt the censures of some, who from their stations I thought might rather have had to encourage me, I have found it best for me to endeavour to take heed to my own steps, lest I should not be able to stand to what I think right & on this account I am fearful of undertaking such a thing myself; at the same time I find earnest desires

in my mind that I may so conduct myself as to give no just cause of uneasiness to my own mind, which is above all things the most worthy of my being truly solicitous after—

Much stealing & house breaking has been practiced this winter in this City & neighbourhood, and we have heard of many robberies in distant parts of the Country; the Inhabitants of these walls are greatly increased in number within some weeks past, some of whom are to be tryed for their lives—It is not at all to be admired, that some of the lower class of people should be carried away with such temptations, at a time when the heads & Rulers are so far from being a terror to evil doers by a good example, that they practice nothing but what tends to promote the greatest depravity in the morals & principles of the people & seem to be advancing towards a state the most deplorable that can happen to man of being providentially left to themselves.

It has been remark'd by some out of doors, that most of the robberies have been committed in the houses of those who are engaged in the present measures & Thomas McKean has not escaped—

2 mo: 16th. Thomas Lancaster, Junr. came into Goal & informed us he had been taken up the day before by one called a Constable at Whitemarsh, where he lives & brought to town this morning on account of his refusal to pay what is called Substitute Money, the present Rulers having made a Law, by which they impose 4 months imprisonment on those who will neither serve in the Militia, as they call it, or pay what they term the Substitute money—he continued with us exactly One week, when the same man who conducted him to town, came to this Goal & told him, he had nothing against him & that he was discharged—he afterwards informed us that a Cow & a Horse had been taken from his father on account of his refusal to pay some Tax & the person who took & sold them, called on his father to know what

he should do with the Over-plus, & not getting any satisfaction thereon, the same person came of his own accord here & released him.

The day before Thomas Lancaster was brought here, Peter Todon told us that Hossman had given him directions to put out our fire at the time he locked us up, & also that we were to have no candle light, for what cause we could not learn, it was favourable for us that the weather had moderated from that severity, which had continued for near two months past,—

At this time we were busily employed in making walking sticks of some Hickory wood we had purchased of Jehu, the Son John Roberts, that was hanged by the present Rulers, after some time of Imprisonment in this Goal; so that we have great plenty of Chips and Shavings & by that means easily rekindled our fire, tho we were every evening fearful lest Hossman might come up, & find the fire burning, which would probably have brought on us some hard language & treatment; Todon by his behaviour seemed to wish we might have fire provided it was without his knowledge—This putting out the fire continued till the 29th of 2d mo, when I being abruptly informed that there was a New York Newspaper in town which mentioned the death of my brother Jabez in London, it gave me a sudden shock, being quite unexpected & unprepared for such an event & my not being got over my former disorder, so that I was again unwell, which Todon seeing, said he would not put it out & if Hossman would have it put out he should come & do it himself, so that from this time there was no attempt to put it out.

I continued much indisposed for some days, the death of my dear brother was a close tryal to me, & the family in general, more particularly my sister Sally, who is much affected with it as well as really indisposed—

About the 10th of 3d mo: received sundry letters from New York, London & Leeds, giving a particular

account of my Brother's death at the house of Emanuel Elam at Leeds, on the first of the 12th mo: 1779—after about three weeks slight indisposition & four days Illness of a scarlet fever & an ulcerated sore throat—Rec'd at same time a letter from my Brother Jabez dated 11 mo: 4, 1779, in which clearly expresses the affecting Idea, he then had of never seeing us more:

The accounts of him now received being in a good degree satisfactory & a firm belief of his removal being happy from the distressing scenes in which we are daily partakers, tends much to mitigate the Greif on this affecting occasion.

He had been absent from home 4 Years & 7 months to the day of his death, about seven months of which in the latter part of the Year 1778* he had been at New York with a quantity of Goods from England, when he left which in the 6 mo: 1778 he expected to arrive at Philadelphia, but the Brittish leaving this City, & the circumstance he was under of being obnoxious to the Rulers here, rendered it not adviseable for him to come home, & therefore he returned to England; by his letter above mentioned he had heard of the circumstance I am under, but not having it from any of the family, he did not know, whether fully to credit it, but expresses his very earnest desires, that I may be supported under my tryal, which I am apprehensive with his many other tryals & embarassments during so long a seperation from his Connections came so close upon him, that nature could not longer bear up under them—

I am thankful that I am supported to bear this additional tryal without murmuring at an event which human power or foresight can neither evade nor remedy, in any other manner than patiently to acquiesce under the dispensations of Providence, and to learn that these hard things are frequently permitted to attend us, in

* & fore part of the Year 1779.

that unbounded kindness & mercy, which the human mind unassisted can neither comprehend nor penetrate.

John Elmslie & Daniel Dawson having several times spoke to Hossman for a copy of the paper by which they are detained here called a Mittimus, soon after they were conducted hither, in two or three days, he handed it to them, demanding 12 dollars for it (meaning the paper issued by Congress expressive of so much) which they refused to pay, or indeed anything for it, it was withheld from them till 3 mo: 18th, when Joseph Rhoads called out John Elmslie & gave him a Copy of it, by which I conclude that Hossman was weary in withholding it & got Rhoads to deliver it, being as follows:

Pennsylvania ss:

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to the keeper of our Goal at Philadelphia, or to his deputy, greeting:

Whereas, Daniel Dawson, late of the said City Yeoman, hath been duly nominated & appointed a Constable for Mulberry Ward, & John Elmslie, late of said City Yeoman, hath been duly nominated & appointed a Constable for Chestnut Ward, both wards being in the said City, & are arrested for neglect of duty as the Constables aforesaid & being charged therewith & required to enter severally into recognizance for their respective appearance at the next court of Oyer & Terminer & General Goal delivery for the said City & County to answer the said charge, do absolutely & contemptuously refuse to do the same.

We therefore command you & each of you that you receive them the said Daniel Dawson & John Elmslie into your custody in our said Goal, or that one of you do receive them there to remain untill they shall be delivered by due Course of law, hereof fail you not at your peril.

Witness the honourable Thomas McKean, Esquire, Chief Justice of our supreme Court at Philadelphia,

the fourth day of december in the year of our Lord,
One thousand seven hundred & seventy Nine.

Tho. McKean.—

3rd mo: 26th. The general Spring Meeting, Joseph Moore, Jacob Lindley, William & Isaac Jackson, Benjamin Mason, William Miller, Rebecca Chambers & sundry other Men & Women friends came to visit us, & had, I hope, a satisfactory sitting with us, in which several of them spake very encouraging & instructive to us, they left us in expectation of being here again before they left the City, but most of them were prevented.

27th & 28th, several friends from various parts of the Country came to see us all of whom seem to have a sympathy for us & to desire we may know our dependence to be fixed on that everlasting Arm, which can alone enable us to stand firm & unshaken thro' the present delusive storm which has overspread so many of the Inhabitants of this land—the latter day Thomas & Susanna Lightfoot & Samuel Emlen had a sitting with us, I hope to their satisfaction & our encouragement.

3rd mo: 28th. Thomas Watson, Junr. put into our room, again, the Court at which he is to be tried being come.

A little before noon John Elmslie & Daniel Dawson were conducted from the Goal to the State house, to what is called the Court of Oyer & Terminer, where a paper called Bill of Indictment was read to each of them seperately, couched exactly in the same terms purporting their contempt of authority in neglecting to serve the office of Constable, & they were required to plead Guilty or not Guilty, to which they answered, that they denied any Guilt, & D. Dawson said it was altogether false; Upon which they were told by Thomas McKean that if they would enter into recognizance they might go home & come there again at 3 O'Clock this

day, which they declining to do were brought back to Goal—& about 3 O'Clk. were again conducted to the State house; when twelve Men were sworn to try them—They had no Lawyer or any other to speak for them. John Elmslie endeavour'd all in his power to defend himself & was desirous of making it appear by several persons present that about the year 1770 he had been appointed Constable & afterwards by the consent of the Court he had hired Samuel Raine to serve in his Stead, but McKean would not admit it & said that no evidence should be allowed by the records of the Court, notwithstanding which he defended himself till he was born down and silenced—

Daniel Dawson seeing how it had gone with his Companion, said he had little to say; as say what he would they would have it as they pleased afterwards.

McKean spoke sharply against them, as being obstinately disaffected & that he supposed they wanted or expected to have a leaf in the book of Sufferings, with much more harshly inveighing against them—

Neither Elmslie or Dawson mentioned that according to their own Laws they had enacted that no person should serve as a Constable that had not taken the Test to them.

After about an hour's absence the 12 Men return'd & said they were both guilty—Upon which Thomas McKean told them he had a right to fine them £200 (pounds) each, but to shew them that he would be moderate he only would fine them £50 (pounds) each & the Court Charges, which they not shewing any disposition to pay, were brought back to Goal towards evening.

3rd mo: 29th. Peter Todon, who had been turnkey 7 months & 20 days, & had treated us as civilly as we could expect from any person in such a situation in such times as these, went away. We were not desirous of a change, as we by this time knew each other pretty well each of us gave him a small matter in token of his

having shewn a favorable disposition towards us—Hossman has employed Joseph Rhoads, who formerly was his Master that he served his apprenticeship with, probably only till he can get a Turnkey—

3rd mo: 30th. In John Dunlap's paper of this day is the following passage concerning Elmslie & Dawson—viz.

4 mo: 1. Thomas Watson, Junr. taken out, tried & acquitted—Peter Music before he made his escape having given evidence, that he knew the person of whom Watson had received the Counterfeit Congress Bills & had seen the lawful old Jersey Bills he gave in exchange for them.

This afternoon Dominick Joyce, a Roman Catholic Merchant of this City, was committed to Goal & came into our room & informed us that he went to New York with the Brittish Army on business, from whence he returned home about the End of the Year 1778—that in the summer 1779 he had been called to Court & examined, when he told them he was born a Brittish Subject, had a long time resided in foreign Countries & tho his residence did not take away his right yet he always looked upon himself subject to the Laws of the Country he was in—this at that time got him clear, but he was again taken up & conducted to Thomas McKean, who seem'd in a great rage, probably had taken too much Wine this day, & demanded Joyce to take the Test & upon his refusal so to do sent him to Goal—

D. Joyce immediately by his friends made application for liberty to go to New York, or from hence to some of the West Indies—& on the next afternoon 4th mo: 2'd he was let out to prepare for his departure.

4th mo: 6th. John Kugler was put into our room & informed us, that he lives in Bucks County about 35 miles from Town, on the river Delaware, that he keeps a ferry thereon, that both himself & wife with a Child

about two months old were taken up at their dwelling by a writing from Jos. Reed & his Council & brought to this City, they were seperately examined by the said Council, he only for about ten minutes, before he was ordered to Goal, & not permitted to have any conversation with his wife, but in the hearing of the person, who conducted them to town; His wife was order'd to be kept Prisoner in Newtown Goal Bucks County, by this examination Kugler told us he learnt that he was accused of entertaining & ferrying over some of Burgoyne's Soldiers who had made their way so far, on their progress to New York, that no accuser had been brought to face him, but that the Council asked him sundry ensnaring Questions & he understands they talk of keeping him here till he shall confess something against himself.—the view of keeping him from having any communication with his wife seems to be, that thereby they hope that their examinations may clash with each other—

In a few days Kugler heard that his wife was not put to Newtown Goal, but permitted to go home & be a prisoner there & the neighbours are forbid to have intercourse with her—

At the Court now sitting five persons have been found guilty of House breaking & Highway Robberies & I expect ere long may be taken out of this Goal & hanged.

About the 12th of this month, the News of Admiral Rodney's taking a fleet of Ships bound from Bilboa to Cadiz & of his having taken 4 Spanish Line of Battle Ships off Capt. St. Vincent, besides destroying some others reached this City in a clear & undoubted manner, this very probably may have a tendency to bring the present unnatural Contest between America & England to a happy issue & the Inhabitants to a cordial reconciliation & a mutual forgetting of past Injuries & Wrongs.

4th mo: 14th. The Militia, so called, are to muster about 2 O'Clk. afternoon of 17th Inst, about 8 O'Clk. this morning the following was torn down & brought into our room:

“Philadelphia, April 14, 1780.

To the Inhabitants of Philadelphia & its respective districts, who compose the militia Artillery & Musketry. Gentlemen

You are earnestly requested to attend (without Arms) a meeting to be held on monday next the 17th Inst. at nine O'Clock in the forenoon on the Commons near Byrnes's tavern in order to consider on matters of great importance respecting our present circumstances in regard to the necessaries of life, as well as the present militia Act & its consequential bad effects on the laboring poor, as all the fines & forfeitures together with their own tour of duty will center on themselves, also the partiality exhibited in said act ——— those least entitled to it. Slow and Sure.

N.B. Perhaps a certain great personage & his B—— Guards will favour us with their Company, but we are determined to be free

. . . The poor are humbly requested . . . to obey Cerberus's Sumons in respect to the Election of their different Officers. WHEAT!

If you mean to avoid the just resentment of an injur'd people don't tear this off—

The above paper was posted up about town & first seen on the seventh day morning the 15th.—In consequence of which Jos. Reed & his Council issued a proclamation against the intended meeting on first day the 16th, couched as I am informed in a mild & rather persuasive Stile; but this proclamation was observed on the morning of the 17th at the various corners where it had been pasted to be daubed with human dung, & torn, all thro' the City—from which it seem'd probable

there might have been worse effects than arose 10 mo: 4. 1779—but as the militia had no ammunition & the light-horse, with many of the Citizens were stirring & very active early on the morning of 17th, the intended collection at Byrnes's did not gather—the Council had all the printers before them on the 16th & 17th but could not find who printed the above paper of the 14th—the Militia, so called, met in the afternoon of 17th in consequence of a notification from William Henry called Lieutenant of the City & chose their officers, yet the cause of uneasiness does not appear to me to be done away from the minds of those who go under the name of supporters of the Cause of America, but only smothered to break out again more furiously.

I should have mentioned before that George Haughton was put into our room in the night of the 13th of this month, & informed us that he had been taken up some time since for illuminating his Windows at the time the British Army entered the City in the Year 1777. & for at that time publicly expressing some sentiments against Washington, &c, & in favor of the King &c—that he had given Bail for his appearance at that called the Supreme Court now sitting, but being much alarmed, he had gone off & reached as far as Squan in the Jersey, wither he had been persued by his Bail taken & brought back;

the next day 4th mo: 14th he was taken to Court & in the Evening he was again brought to us & informed us he had been tryed & found guilty of Misprision of Treason, by which sentence had been passed upon him of the forfeiture of the half of all he had & imprisonment during the War. He stayed with us a night or two more, when he was removed into another room, during his Stay, we understood from him that he was an Upholder by Trade, that he had before the coming of the British to this City, supplied Washington's Army with a great Quantity of Drums, as well as much Camp furniture.

There is now in this Goal a poor German Stocking Weaver from Frankfort on the Main, who tells us he has been 19 months a prisoner at Yorktown Goal, from whence he was brought to this Goal on the 26th of last month, having suffered much for food & Clothing—it appears that nothing has been attempted to be brought against him, nor no paper empowering either of the Prison keepers to keep him, but that he is detain'd without any cause or accusation brought against him—his Name Philip Swartz.

About 4th mo: 20th. In the morning John Elmslie, Daniel Dawson & myself were walking in the Yard, we saw a Man dressed as an american officer coming towards us in the Entry or passage & before he got to the back Door he started back with Surprize in his Countenance, more than once & in a rough manner, saluted us, seemingly in amazement saying, “What can such Men as you be here for & what can be the cause?” which we were not forward in answering & therefore said nothing—he then turn'd from us & conversed some time with a Soldier who is a prisoner here—& we continued to walk, when he had ended with the Soldier, he came again to us & began thus—“You ought to be damned if you do not hold to your Integrity, for my own part I should esteem myself happy to be here suffering as you are & I would rather be eat up alive by the maggots, as a dead horse in summer, than give up, don't be uneasy. I suppose you have families & Children, there will be a support for you & somebody to deliver you—I don't know what you are here for, but I suppose it is because you cannot conform to this Presbyterean Government—hold your Integrity. This I tell you, tho I am such a fool, that I am now going to march 3 or 400 Miles to the Southward & cannot withstand it, look at that Soldier & see his Shoes & how he is clothed for such a man, they think our flesh is like Sole Leather—I have been 16 Years in the King's Service & I know

what it is there has been every few Years some queer things in the Brittish Government & there will be something queer things soon."

These are nearly his words except that he swore much with them, during some of which I was turning to go away, but he said don't go away, I said I had no objection to staying to hear him, but that his swearing offended me,—he said he knew it, and that it was not right & pointing his finger to his breast said I have to answer for that & not you—adding that he felt re-proof for it,

he enquired how we fared, we told him we were at present five in number & had a comfortable room & wanted for nothing that was necessary—His name is Isaac Coren. His conversation (notwithstanding his swearing seemed so opposite to the advice he was giving us, & his conduct so contradictory to what he wished us to persue) carried with it, that altho' he was so far hurried away with the delusion, that he had not the least Strength to withstand the Current yet he could clearly see what was right & be rejoiced in finding some who were endeavouring to stand to it.

It appears at least very probable that there are many thousands who by joining early in smaller matters, have been carried away with this delusion, contrary to what they know to be right & altho' they frequently see Clearly what would be right for them to do, they have not strength to stand to it—These are much to be pitied by every feeling mind, May they yet have strength afforded them to join in with the secret convictions of their own minds & no longer remain acting a part directly opposite to the inward monitor in their own breasts—

This passage of Coren seemed very remarkable to us all & tender'd our minds with Sympathy & Compassion for him & such as are in his situation.

If we are sincerely suffering for our non-compliance

with what we believe to be wrong and are looking to that everlasting Arm of Strength which can alone support us; we shall not fail unless the fault be with us—

About the 25th of this month heard of Moses Roberts, with several friends & others in number about 15 being apprehended in Northumberland County, I conclude upon some suspicion of disaffection to the American Cause so called—

4th mo: 29th. John Wilson, Ed^a Greswold & John McCarty were brought from Chester to this Goal in Irons they came into the City from Chester County while the Brittish Army lay here, with whom they enlisted as Soldiers & afterwards deserted, the two first expected to have been tryed at Chester, but McKean told them there, they must be sent to Philadelphia to have sentence of Death passed upon them.

This day Francis Nelson a Taylor came into Goal & informed us he had been try'd this morning at what is called the City Court, & found guilty of Misprision of Treason as they term it, on account of some small matters not material to be here inserted, in his conduct while the Brittish Army lay in this City, his sentence is the same as George Haughton's.

5th mo: 2nd. Wilson & Greswold taken to the State house, where the Court of Oyer & Terminer yet continue to sit, & Thomas McKean there passed sentence of death upon them without any sort of ceremony of a tryal—

5th mo: 6th. Marmaduke Grant & Dennis Carragan who had been condemned for highway Robbery John Hill, John Jones & George Montgomery who had been condemned for house breaking, were expected to be hanged, but Jones & Montgomery were reprieved & not taken to the Gallows. Grant, Carragan & Hill were taken out & hanged—on which account our room was kept locked till noon, after which our friends who had much difficulty of access for about 14 days past, (the

time since the Death Warrants of the above men were signed) had more easy access to see us—

From the account I have heard of the three men that were hanged, there is a strong hope they have made a happy end—it was an affecting thing to some of us.

James Thornton, John Pemberton, Ezekiel Clever & Henry Drinker, part of the quarterly Meeting Committee came again to see me, they spake encouragingly to all my Companions & seem to see my situation here as I believe more clearly as it really is, than they have done before, they hinted something of an application on my behalf, but I conclude they did not see their way clear & therefore did not proceed therein, this visit should have been inserted before it was on 30th of 4th mo.

5 mo: 15th. This day Joseph Richardson, who has been confined in this Goal from the 4th of 3rd mo. last, was let out on Condition of his departing the State as they call it—tho he had a few days before given Bail in £200.000 for his appearance at Court to take his tryal on account of his being concerned in counterfeiting the Lawful Bills of Pennsylvania, which he was discovered in in the Year 1773, but at that time made his escape from the Sheriff & got into the back Country of Virginia,—he was also charged by the present rulers with disaffection & facts of that kind laid to his charge—but proof seemed to be wanting—

5th mo: 21st. This morning we were informed that two Young Men of the name of Smith, who some time in this Month had shot —— Boyd, a Tax Gatherer in Chester County near Brandywine Chadsford—had been brought to this Goal last Evening in Irons & that they were taken in Monmouth County, New Jersey on their intended way to New York, we also learn they are all night chained to the floor of the dungeon & that they are to be kept day & night there—

Joseph Pritchard who had been much indisposed for

some time & Yesterday afternoon had been very ill in consequence of which Dr. John Redman had signed a Certificate that his disorder was of such a nature as to require exercise to carry it off & that he was in a dangerous way Joseph's Wife informed us this morning that she had been last evening with Joseph Reed, who seem'd to make light of his disorder the Bilious Cholic & said nobody ever died with it—Also that Joseph could not be released without giving Bail to come to Goal as soon as he was well—which Joseph could not be easy to do, & indeed he was not desirous any application should be made for him but I thought it well enough especially in case of his Death, lest they should say he should have been released, if they had known his Situation.

Several of our friends who have come to see us have told us they took notice of last sixth day the 19th Instant being remarkably dark & I took notice of the Sun's being very red & easily to be looked at with the naked Eye, & that for some time before & after noon it was darker than any day I remember

There has been confined here from about the 9th of the fourth Month to Yesterday afternoon, when he was removed to the New Goal, a person who passes for an Irishman & goes under the name of John Patrick Lynch, but I am told he is an Englishman—what I have learnt of his Story is as follows—

That he sailed as Owner or Supercargo of a Vessel from New York bound to Hallifax I believe last fall, but being met by an american privateer, he & his Captain whose name is ——— Linn, produced papers to prove their intention of coming to Philadelphia agreeable to the encouragement given by the Congress—Lynch had the matter tryed in Jersey with the Owners of the Privateer & found means to get a Judgment in his favour, the Owners of the Privateer having sold the property, were to pay the Amount to Lynch, but enter-

taining some suspicions against him, procured him to be lodged within these walls, after which they made him an offer of half, which he refused—some time after there came an account that —— Linn, who had gone out in an american privateer and had been put on board One of the fleet, which had sailed from New York for Georgia, about the time called Christmas, which had been captured by the said privateer—had found means to conduct the prize into Bermuda, this circumstance of Linn's deception, was strongly urged against Lynch, & I conclude other circumstances appear'd against him, so that he was removed to the New Goal Yesterday, & is now by the present rulers considered as a prisoner of war—Lynch was well dressed, had been educated in a polite manner & I conclude has been a Clergyman of the Church of England.

22nd. David Thomas by profession a baptist a resident in Chester County & member of the present assembly called to see Joseph Pritchard, with whom he had been formerly acquainted & had about two weeks before called here to see him—at this time Joseph was ill; he urged Joseph to give bail & be released till he recovered his health, but Joseph told him he could not give Bail & his indisposition render'd him incapable of saying much more—D. Thomas enquired of the rest of us separately, what was the cause of our confinement—John Kugler related that he had heard that some ordinary Woman had sworn that he had ferried over some of Burgoyne's Soldiers & that this Woman had since confessed that she had nothing against John Kugler, but that what she did was merely from Spite & Malice. He also informed D. Thomas of all the other circumstances of his affair as I have above related—

John Elmslie related his Case fully & Daniel Dawson said his was nearly the same, except that he never satisfied the Office of Constable. I informed him fully of the cause of my being here, gave him a copy of my

letter to read, which he seemed to do with attention & said he should be glad I would have it published. I told him I wished to keep from public view as much as possible & therefore could not consent to it, but expressed my willingness to give him a copy, if he was desirous of having it, to which he made no reply—He said he was glad our offences, were small & mentioned our petitioning for releif. We told him, we could not acknowledge the present rulers—he then said if you cannot acknowledge the Government there is no releif for you—upon which I said your Government, if it can be so called is exactly of a peice with the paper Bills issued to carry on the War, which are the greatest Lies, deception & Hippocrisy & for these reasons I could not acknowledge their authority, we had much more conversation in an open free, mild & forbearing disposition, as I never met with any man before engaged in the present measures, who seemed so open & willing to hear & clear of any warm or bitter expressions—I also told him, that I believe some of the present rulers here, do not see or know what they are about, or a doing, & that if they did, they would immediately desist, & might yet become worthy men; that I had no malice or ill will towards any that had been active against me, but that I could not help pitying many of them, that I had been favour'd to bear my imprisonment without murmuring—he acknowledged that a majority of the people he knew had not taken the test, and did not approve their Government, the whole of our conversation was to me satisfactory & we parted with mutual good wishes for each other—

26th. Joseph Pritchard continues indisposed & mends but slowly—This Evening Hossman directed that George Haughton should be put into our room, some of my Companions spoke to him on the occasion, as our room was already pretty well filled, but it had no effect, Hossman saying he must be with us & we were

all of a feather, we believe the cause of Haughton's being with us, is in order to gratify Thomas Hale late an Agent for the Sale of confiscated Estates (so called), who having been found to have applied to his own use, what he had received and unable to settle his accounts has been turn'd out of employ & Wm. McMullin appointed in his stead—Hale separate & independent of his Conduct in the present measures, which has been very bad, has for many years been well known to have been of very bad moral Conduct many ways—Hale is put into the room from whence Haughton was removed, where Lawrence Powell a Baker is confined, being charged with defrauding the States so called—& is sentenced to remain in Goal till the 4th of 7th month next & pay a great nominal fine—Powell seems an open countenanced man says he has been very ill used by Christopher Lodowick & that there is much due to him.

For about 5 or 6 weeks past, most of us have without any notice given to each other, sat down in Silence for about 2 hours every first day morning, I hope in some sincerity of heart, my mind at these, as well as many other times, has been deeply & I hope thankfully impressed with a clear evidence of the divine Support we are upheld by during our confinement, & I have been at times fearful lest I may not hold out to the End—but may slip & fall under the spirit which now prevails.

6th mo: 1st. Heard of the Surrender of Charlestown South Carolina on the 12th of last month to Sir Henry Clinton, Commander of the Brittish Troops—& Marriott Arbuthnot Admiral of the fleet, with 6000 Prisoners Sundry frigates, Ships &c—This Account was brought by the Ship Iris to New York and from thence here—tis cause of satisfaction that but very few lives were lost, in comparison of what might have been expected in such an attack—

6th mo: 6th. William Jackson visited us, this morning, he had a sitting with us, & spake in an encouraging

manner: his Company & discourse was attended with a degree of sweetness to my mind which I cannot well describe—May I so conduct myself thro' life, that I may esteem this secret enjoyment of the mind above everything this World can possibly afford—

6th mo: 7th. In the News Papers of this day is published an order of Council, That the Wives & Children of all those, who are with the Brittish in New York are to depart the State in ten days, as they look upon their longer continuance to be dangerous in keeping up a Correspondence. Also a Resolve of those called the Assembly made since the account was received of the surrender of Charlestown empowering the Council so called to declare Martial Law if circumstances should appear to require it—& in the same paper all those that have taken the test to the present Rulers are required to have their Certificates in readiness in order that a clear distinction may be made betwixt them & those who have not. From these things many of the quiet Inhabitants are much alarmed & under fearful apprehensions, of tryals & sufferings falling to their lot shortly—May that providential hand which has many times before supported us under hard tryals & averted some of the blackest Storms, yet continue to be with & protect us; which has never failed to support those who sincerely put their trust in him.

6th mo: 9th heard of a body of Brittish Soldiers landing at Elizabeth-Town Point & marching as far as Springfeild about 8 or 10 Miles where on their way there has been some fighting with Washington's Army, but cannot learn the particulars; there seems by what we can learn to be much commotion in the Minds of the people & a variety of fears amongst the different parties.

6 mo: 10. This morning the Militia so called who had been order'd to meet on the Commons met there, not knowing for what—but when there, they were ordered

to go & take all horses from such as had not taken the Test & they did go about with Muskets & Bayonets fixed & took all they could find belonging to such persons which were mostly friends—I am informed that Tench Francis, a Merchant of considerable property at the beginning of these times of disorder & confusion, went about upon this business under Ezekiel Letts a Taylor as Captain.

Martial Law I am told was proclaimed to the Militia on the Commons this morning & printed papers are pasted up about the City declaring the same signed by Joseph Reed President of the Council, in consequence of the Resolve of those called the Assembly, importing that urgent occasion might arise during their recess.—from this it seems probable the present Rulers are much alarmed at the prospect of Carolinas' submitting to the Brittish Government, as well as the expected movements of the Brittish Army from New York—The City seems to be in great confusion.

Friends & all others under the appellation of Tories, are not a little apprehensive of many alarming things being done to them, if the leaders are not restrained from their evil purposes, by a divine power—from the Goal Windows I saw some of the Armed Men, who were taking the horses; which I am informed were all directly taken to what is called the Continental Yard & were there immediately branded C A—

Reports are frequently brought to us, this tis in agitation to banish all those who have not taken the Test & tis shortly intended to take the Cows from the disaffected in the City—Also that in some parts of the Country they have begun to take Sheep & horned Cattle from the disaffected—

11th heard they had taken from my father's farm the only horse he has Yesterday Morning the quiet inhabitants continue much alarmed as their all their property, if not their Lives seem to be in danger, tho'

I am clearly convinced a great majority of the Citizens are desirous of restoration of peace to the Country under the Brittish Government, but all these who are true & sincere are very much exposed & much the more on account of a very great number that carry two faces & comply with every thing under the present Rulers, in order to avoid suffering—This I look upon to be a meanness unbecoming any man that would be thought to have any sincerity—and in Short tis such conduct as this in a great part of the people which has given strength to the present Rulers & been the cause of Matters becoming so complicate & the Calamities on this land rising to such a height.

May succeeding Generations in this land well remember & bear in view these things, in order that they be instructed to be instrumental in preserving the Land in Peace & under the divine blessing, which I have cause to believe will succeed & follow these days of great degeneracy—

6 mo: 12 heard that Kniphausen with a Body of Troops crossed by two bridges from Staaten Island to Elizabeth Town Point; that there has been an engagement at Springfield ab't. 8 or 10 Miles this Way—in which it is said many of Washington's Army have been killed.

This Evening in Goal one John Adams called a Constable, a disorderly man much given to drink, told us at our room door that the Tories would be plundered before tomorrow night; but if it really was intended, it was as many othere things have been, providentially frustrated—

6 mo: 14. There has some talk of a Town Meeting to be held this day, but I understand it to be dropt or postponed—from about two weeks past to this day I learn about 50 ships &c have arrived in this port, about One third of them french—By this days News Papers four Classes of the Militia so called are ordered to be in readiness—

6 mo: 15. The City quiet, the Horses lately taken from the Tories, are order'd to Washington's Army in the Jerseys—

6 mo. 16 & 17 a Number of Women Citizens of first rank of such as are engaged in the American Cause, so called, went about the City begging money of the females of all ranks & degrees for the support of Washington's Army, said to be in great distress—the latter day, the Militia so called are order'd to be in readiness to march—

6 mo: 18. Jacob Curleis, put to this Goal, being taken at Busseltown 11 Miles distant, he had been taken up at Bordentown, on account of his having a piece of Brittish Goods, which (after an examination by Jos. Borden) & abt. £150 in Gold were taken from him & he directed to come to this City to bring with him the person of whom he had purchased the said Goods, altho' he produced the Bill of purchase of Amos Foulke in this City a few days before.

6 mo: 19th. This day was informed that 12 Men of every company were order'd to meet on the Commons for what purpose could not learn, the quiet inhabitants are somewhat alarmed lest Mischief is contriving against them—

6 mo: 20. heard that some Men had been about town looking for Arms, or saying that was their Intent, they searched the Houses of two Widows in Chestnut Street from the Garret to the Cellar, & as they were persons of property it seems probable they are desirous of knowing what moveables are contain'd in the houses.

This day Thomas Hutchinson & Nathan Feild taken up at Makefeild in Bucks County by Order from Joseph Reed & Council, on suspicion of being concerned with Jacob Curleis, (whose residence is at Shrewsbury in the Jerseys) in getting Brittish Goods from New York, J. Curleis had been examined by Jos. Reed & told some circumstances, from which, these two men were sent for—

6 mo. 21. Thomas Hutchinson discharged at the Instance of his Cousin Dr. James Hutchinson nothing appearing but that he was in Company with J. Curleis at Bordentown.

6 mo: 23. Nathan Feild let out on Bail, it appears he had bought Brittish Goods of Jacob Curleis in Bucks County—the Bail is that he is to appear at that called the Supreme Court in this City 9 mo: next—

1780—6th mo: 25th. This morning first day of the week Jacob Curleis taken to Thomas McKean, who upon Bail given not to depart the City & to appear at the next called Supreme Court, let him go. Curleis had been very ill treated by Hossman kept sometime in the Sandhole, sometime in the dungeon & sometime locked up in a Room day & night & no person permitted to speak with him—his Mare which he values at £60 has been taken from him by Jos. Reed—his peice of Goods & the £150—taken from him by Jos. Borden, has been tryed according what they called a Law in Jersey by some of their Magistrates & condemn'd to the use of the State as they call it, which process I learn all goods they catch which come from New York go thro', unless they happen to belong to those who are what they call Whigs; these can go clear with anything—

It seems likely that Thomas McKean had Curleis bound not to depart the City, lest he should go directly to Bordentown, where Jos. Borden had bound him to appear by a certain day which was already past touching the peice of Goods & Money—in order that the Magistrates so called at Bordentown, might the more clearly proceed in the Condemnation of Curleis' property, who being disabled could not appear at the time, appointed, nor within three months after, during which time matters will be so conducted that he cannot expect to find much traces of his Money—

I have been the more particular in Jacob Curleis' affair, as he seems to be a quiet Young Man well dis-

posed & much to want cunning enough to carry on such a thing as bringing Goods to this City *at this time* which have come out of New York—& all three of them Curleis, Feild & Hutchinson being Members of our Society, I think it very much derogatory from the character which friends ought to support to be concerned in such a Trade, which cannot be done openly & fairly, but in an underhanded & deceiving manner, both in getting them out of New York & afterwards, besides that some lives have been lost by this mode of traffick which is mostly conveyed in the night—unless as I before observe it is done by those now here called Whigs—

6 mo: 26. Samuel Wilson from Bucks County came to see us, & spake encouragingly to us in a sitting in our Room—

This Morning James Reed, John Smith & Robert Smith taken out of Goal in Irons, they walked down under Guard to Market Street Wharf & were conveyed by Water to Chester to be tryed—

Several of the prisoners in this Goal who are confined for debt have been induced to enlist as soldiers for 7 Months—£2000—so called in Congress Bills having been given to each as bounty. Every Company of Militia so called are to furnish two Men for seven Months, in the service of the Congress (some say) against the Indians.

Yesterday heard of a great slaughter ab't. 400 of the Congress Army at Lynch's Creek near the Borders of North Carolina, by Col. Tarleton, Commander of the Brittish—

6 mo: 27. David Dawson was brought to this Goal from Chester in Irons about 11 O'Clock last night, where he has been confined since the 16th of last month—He came into this City from Calne in Chester County while the Brittish Army lay in this City & has been from home nearly all the time since—he had a good farm well stocked with Cattle &c all which has been sold by the present Rulers—

The above mentioned James Reed who lives at Downingtown & was committed here about the 8th of the 5th mo: for passing Counterfeit Congress Bills gave information that he rec'd them knowingly of this David Dawson & Reed also gave information where Dawson might be taken & a brother of Dawson's now lies in Chester Goal on account of harbouring his brother—As there is no proof but Reed's say so of his receiving those Bills of D. Dawson who was proscribed by the present rulers for joining the Brittish, I conclude they mean to handle him for coming into this City while the Brittish Army lay here—

6 mo: 28. John Simpson from Bucks visited us.

6 mo: 29. Heard that John & Robert Smith are try'd & condemned to be hanged at Chester next seventh day 7 mo: 1st—& that their father & Mother with two other Men were committed to Goal (the father kept in Irons) on suspicion of being accessary or assisting the two Smiths in going off after they, or One of them had shot Boyd—The above four were all acquitted except the Father, who was fined £500—so called & bound to his good behaviour as they call it.

Also heard that David Dawson's brother was tried for harbouring him & acquitted for want of Proof—

This day the Striped Flag was hoisted at Market Street Wharf, on account of its being the day called St. Peters day, which I suppose to be observed as a Compliment to the French on account of the Pope whom they call St. Peter's Successor

7th mo: 1st. John Kugler let out on his giving £60,000 Bail so called for his future good behaviour, & he is also bound that neither himself nor any of his family, shall keep the ferry.

7th mo: 4th. Being the day they call the anniversary of the declaration of Independence. I saw many going to the College to hear the Students take their degrees—

The Striped Flag after it had been flying sometime

at Market Street Wharf, with a small or light breeze fell into the River, we could see it distinctly by the help of a looking Glass & One of our Company happen'd to be looking at the instant it fell—This fall of Flag was by some thought to be ominous—

7 mo: 6. Daniel & Caleb Offley put into our Room, on account of their refusal to pay what they call a Tax raised to pay the two Men (which have been lately hired for 7 months) for each Company in City, to go again the Indians as we hear reported they were put here by verbal Order of John McCalla, Captain, without any Mittimus or being had before any of those called Magistrates—The Sum demanded was £75—so called Each, now equal to twenty Shillings Penns'a. Currency or Twelve Shillings Sterling—& this Evening Henry Shaw, a poor Weaver, was put into a Room under us, on account of his refusal to pay the above mentioned Tax so called—Shaw had some of his property taken from him before for Taxes the Constables so called did not find any property of his to seize & the Two Offleys living with their father, no property of theirs was shewn to McCalla, tho' he urged them to do it—

7th mo: 7th. Benjamin Paschall called a Magistrate came to the Goal & order'd Henry Shaw to go home, I could not understand exactly for what reason, but it seems likely his poverty had some effect towards his being restored to his Wife & Children—

7th mo. 8th. Pressley Blackiston, called a County Commisioner came here & told Caleb Offley to go home—the cause of his being thus let out, I am informed is under a notion that Caleb has not common sence enough to know what he is about, but I did not think him such a person, for he could & did give a satisfactory account of his Objections to pay this demand—

The Goaler Stokely Hossman seems much set against Daniel Offley & determined to treat him roughly for his refusal to pay the above demand & says we in our room

will be treated worse on his account—I told him if he treated him with rigour, he might some day have cause to repent it, Which I thought was a little Check upon him, yet Daniel's Wife & other Connections, as well as some other of our Connections had difficult access to us at times—

Joseph Rhoads who still acts as Turnkey, one Evening at locking us up came in & was very abusive particularly to Daniel Dawson, threatening him much & several times laid hold of him, tore his Waistcoat &c, with a view as I thought to provoke him to turn upon him & thereby take occasion against us, but Daniel was preserved from touching him & we all held our Peace, as the only way we could act in such a case with a raging Man in Liquor—All this was observed by several other prisoners so that it became known out of doors & Joseph Rhoads was displaced, & Triplett, a Virginian confined here for debt was employed by Hossman as Turnkey about 7 mo: 12 who having observed Rhoads' & Hossman's unkind treatment of his own accord made fair pretence to us—

From the time of the declaration of Martial Law mentioned above very few of our friends were admitted to see us, but upon their coming to Goal, were asked if they had taken the Test, or Oath—& sent away on this acc't many of them were deterred from attempting to see us—

Triplett's fair pretence lasted but a few days for 7 mo. 15 he began to demand two Congress Paper Dollars so called for every person he admitted, except our Relatives & he stuck to this with little variation about 3 weeks after this time without obtaining anything.

7th mo: 19th. John Wilson & Edward Griswold pardoned & let out of Goal—

7th mo: 27th. Alpheus Brooks, Master of a Shallop from Cohansy & Joseph Perkins in Brooks' employ, were put into our room for bringing up to this City two

Men called Refugees, who had joined the British & under a commission from the Brittish, had come in a small armed Vessel in Delaware Bay, & taken sundry Shalloops coming to this City—One of which being retaken with these two men on Board—who were conveyed to Cohansy, where Joseph Newcomb called Magistrate, gave them passes to go to New York, from whence they were to send two Men in their stead, the Refugees came with Brooks as Passengers on their way to New York. Thomas McKean committed them here & not only threatened them, but also what ought to be done with Newcomb—

7th mo: 29th. John Lindley was this day tried at what is called the City Court on account of some Matters he should have said while the Brittish Army lay here, the particulars I cannot certainly learn—he was by the 12 Men found guilty & sentenced to imprisonment during the War & the forfeiture of half his Goods & Chattles, Lands & Tenements—he was ordered into our room, but our representing the very great & uncommon heat of the weather, & our having already Eight persons in our room, the Goaler's wife prevailed with her husband to order him into another room.

8th mo: 5th. Joseph Perkins let out of Goal on giving Bail in what they call £5000—for his good Behaviour during the War

8th mo: 6th. This Morning Alpheus Brooks taken before Thomas McKean, who let him go on giving £20,000 Bail so call'd for his good behaviour during the War the Bondsmen for each of these Men were freeholders in the City, as none other would be taken—

About Noon this day John Evans being sent for came to see us, when T. Pritchard, D. Dawson, D. Offley & myself had some conversation with him—having a fresh cause of Tryal & difficulty fallen to our lot, which was unexpected & affected me with real sorrow & suffering on account of what may be the consequences

thereof—the part I acted on speaking on this occasion I trust will be justified, & what uneasiness remains is not on my own account as I am conscious of having nothing in view but to prevent it being said that I winked at or gave countenance by my silence to a very base conduct indeed, I much desire the person May be brought to a proper sense of his Conduct & thereby gain strength to refrain from the like in future—I should have passed over this close tryal to me, but I thought it not amiss to say so much here in case it by any means be known—tis very delicate & I trust will never transpire thro' our Means, tho' we may suffer in keeping it—

8 mo: 8. James Thornton & John Pemberton visited us & meeting with some of most of our connections, had a sitting with us, in which James spake encouragingly & told us that our being here might be productive of benefit to others—

8th Mo: 9th. This Evening after we were all in Bed, John McCalla called a Captain in the Militia came into our room and asked Dan'l. Offley if he would go home. Dan'l. hardly scarcely awaken'd said Yes—Upon which McCalla said tis not in consequence of your Letter to me, but a friend of yours has paid the Money,—I asked him to be kind enough to tell us who had paid it, after a little pause he said he could not tell & seem'd to imply he was bound to secrecy, telling Daniel, that he should not have released him so soon, lest he should beleive it was owing to his Letter, but that he was to march tomorrow morning & that he had prepared an answer to the Letter which he would give him—The Letter which Daniel wrote to McCalla, was in mild terms informing him of the Ground of his conscientious objections against War.

8th mo: 10th. & fifth day of the week, this day for the first time sat down in silence from about 10 O'Clk till about 12—being only three of us Pritchard, D. Dawson & Myself—

J. Elmslie has been informed of our intention at this time but seems to want a proper relish to sit down with us, as indeed he has done from our beginning so to do, tho' he has a few times sit with us—Last first day we began to have two sittings Morning & Afternoon. I hope these sittings we have had have not altogether been mere form & without any degree of sincerity of intention on our parts.

8th mo: 13th. Altho' it is first day of the week yet we hear they are going about taking horses from friends & others in the City who have not taken the Test of fidelity to the present Rulers & Abjuration of the King, &c—

8th mo: 15th. Heard of a most dreadful Riot in the City of London headed by Lord George Gordon, who beset the Parliament house abused many of the Members attacked the Bank & the Tower, destroyed the Chapels of several foreign Ambassadors Lord Mansfield's & several other houses burnt four prisons & let out the Criminals &c &c.—This account was brought by the Mercury packet, Cap't. Dillon for New York taken & brought in here, it seems the mob was fired upon by the Military many killed, the whole dispersed—Lord G. Gordon in the Tower & many other Rioters taken, whom they are about to try—The only cause assigned by Gordon or the Mob for all the Tumult & Outrages, was an Act, passed in the last Sessions of Parliament allowing liberty of Conscience to Papists, who have been closely abridged of many civil privileges, since the time of William & Mary—it is favourable for those who are upright & sincere in & to the British Government, that the Mob had no greater Cause to be discontented upon for the Act is allowed to be innocent & reasonable—for my part I have little doubt in my mind, but that the matter has been concerted by some in America, France, & G. Britain, who have had no less intention than a total overthrow of

the whole Brittish empire—t'was the same spirit & party that last year attempted to overset the Government in Ireland—The failure of that then & of this now in London, I am ready to beleive must materially affect the Spirits & hopes of our usurpers here, more especially as it seems probable many of the Rioters will be executed & thoughts must sometimes arise in their Minds, of a day when the people on this side the Atlantic will so far get clear of the delusion they have been under, as to see thro' the whole of the evil intentions of those who have long meditated this their favourite Scheme.

Two things I omitted to mention in due course The first, that Stokely Hossman the Goaler about the first coming of pleasant weather in the Spring told me he would take a walk out with me any time when I would ask him so to do, adding that it would be beneficial for my health &c—I made him no kind of reply—for even supposing I could have reconciled myself to think that accepting of a partial liberty in such a way, would not have been an acknowledgment of my having given just occasion for the treatment I have received—he is a man of so very irregular & base conduct, that I should be very sorry to be reduced to the necessity of having him for a Companion on any occasion.

The Second, That When Dr. William Cowper left this City about the fifth Month last, being order'd to New York by Joseph Reed & his associates, Mary Eddy accompanied his family to Elizabeth Town Point, where David Sproat a Commissary of Prisoners at New York came over to them, & told M. Eddy he was concern'd on account of my long imprisonment, & desired her to inform me that if I would agree to be exchanged he would undertake to detain some Rebel Justice or other active person till I was sent to New York—I learnt that she told him she thought I should not consent to it, but undertook to deliver the Message

to me, agreeable to his request so to do—I was well satisfied that M. Eddy told D. Sproat that she thought I should not consent to be exchanged, as it clearly coincided with my sentiments—Altho' on account of my Brother Jabez's accounts at New York & especially in England, my presence not only might be very useful, but my Brothers Thomas & Miers on the 3'd month last proposed my going thither in order to settle them, they thinking it might be necessary & one of us coming to England to settle my Brother's affairs had been mentioned in a letter from the friend at whose house he deceased—I told my Brothers that I could not tell them whether I should be willing to go to England until I was clear of this imprisonment, & that if I thought it right & well to go to England, I could not be easy to be discharged on condition of binding myself to that or any other acknowledgm't, which would give occasion for any to say I had swerved from my principles, by evading suffering for .I see clearly that at the same time as I wish to keep my Fidelity to the King & Government inviolate, tis a nice point to keep clear of a dependance on Human Support & Protection in the several tryals that have fallen to my Lot.

There is now confined in an adjoining Room, where he has been about four months past One James Scott a native of Aberdeen, who has been in a low disconsolate Condition many weeks past, in a considerable degree deprived of his senses, will not lay down or take off his Cloaths night or day—& will scarcely be prevailed upon to take any food or go out of the Room, his situation calls for compassion & tenderness, but there does not appear any disposition of that kind towards him in the present rulers, tho' they have nothing against him but because he went from this City where he had resided some Years, to New York with the British Army—he says he resided on Long Island, follows pedling or dealing in a small way, & about the

8th of 4th month last crossed the Sound from Long Island to the Neighbourhood of New London, where he got a pass to this City, & on the morrow after his coming to town, went to the Council told his story & shewed them his pass & altho' nothing then or since is laid to his Charge there seems no prospect of his being enlarg'd.

On or about 9th mo: 1st, heard of the defeat of Gates's Army near Cambden in South Carolina by the Brittish under Lord Cornwallis, wherein upwards of 900 of Gates's Army were killed & about as Many taken prisoners, the rest put to flight in great disorder & Gates himself with difficulty got off, never halting till he got to Hillsborough in North Carolina distant from Cambden ab't 170 Miles.

It were much to be desired that the Inhabitants of these revolted Colonies were so far humbled under the Judgments & Calamities that are in the Land, that they might by their humility be individually helpful in dispelling the present delusion which has overspread most of this Continent like a thick Cloud; this would bring to an end, the great heats animosities, persecutions & the destruction of vast numbers which fall in Battle, & tend more to a mutual reconciliation & forgetting of injuries upon a solid & lasting foundation, than all the Armies that can be brought into the feild—tho' it seems very probable this defeat of Gates may materially tend to bring such of the present Rulers as are immovably & resolutely determin'd never to be reconciled, to look at what may 'ere very long be their situation & to shake at the prospect of it.—Had Gates succeed'd in his attack upon the Brittish Army, the consequences thereof to the faithful Subjects & all such as had put themselves under the Brittish protection, as well as all others who from local situation, were within the Compass of the Brittish Army, must have been very dreadful & harassing beyond what any can

well form an Idea of but those who have passed thro' the like tryal.

This defeat seems a providential turn in favour of Great Britain, & I hope will materially tend restore Peace to the Land by the Consequence of it.

9th mo: 9th. This afternoon the Goaler came into our room & told Daniel Dawson, he might go home with his wife, who was then here, Daniel desired him to inform how or by what means he was discharged, but Hossman only told him, that he had verbal orders to let him out, & that he might send for his Bedding, &c—so that we are at a loss to know by whom or in what manner he is discharged—I may here mention that no traces can be found of any person paying for Daniel Offley, the Tax so called for which he was put to Goal, but it seems rather to be beleived, that he was discharged without any payment or satisfaction of the demand—

9th mo: 16th. Heard that many of the Rioters were tryed & hanged in London & that Admiral Rodney is arrived at New York from the West Indies—

The City from the beginning to abt. the 20th of this Month was very sickly, considerable numbers died, I heard of 17. 19. & 27. persons being buried on three several days, great numbers have had a fever, which I conclude from what I hear is of a putrid kind, but most of them have had it but lightly. My Father, each of my Brothers & Sisters have had it & got well thro' it,—It is a great favour we have our health so well in this house & tis remarkable the sickness has not got amongst any of the prisoners here, tho' they are crowded in many of the Rooms being about 100 persons in all Men & Women, who live in a very dirty manner & some of them seem to be much abandoned to almost every vice—

I heard of three persons who died of the Yellow Fever & Joseph Reed's wife is said to have died of the

flux—& William Allen is thought to have died of greif on account of the times tho' I beleive he was about 80 Years Old—His Old Coach Horses which he had had upwards of twenty Years were taken from him & tho' he offered to pay the full value of them if he could have them again, he could not obtain them as he had not taken the Test—& was obliged to ride in an open Chair.

The sickness yet continues tho fewer dye with it—

9th mo: 25th. By accounts from New York, it appears by letters & papers found on the Bodies of some of Gates's officers, who were wounded or killed in Battle, that a scheme had been plann'd between Gates's Army & some of the Inhabitants of Charlestown in case of Gates's success, to set fire to the Town, release the prisoners confined there, seize the Arms & put each as opposed them to Sword &c—In consequence of this discovery Thirty Eight of the principal Inhabitants who were concerned in the plot, were put on board the Sandwich & are said to be sent prisoners to Augustine—the prevention of this intended wickedness & treachery is very worthy to be esteemed by all thoughtful & well inclined people as a most singular providence.

Two days ago ——— Triplett was turn'd out of his Business as Turnkey, on what account I cannot learn—He was guilty of a very base Act to David Dawson, viz. He signified that he would let David Dawson out of this Goal if he was well rewarded in Consequence David agreed to give him 30 half Johannes's equal to £54 Sterling & Congress Bills to the nominal value of £90—At the time appointed—Triplett went down into the Dungeon and desired David to give him the Money there, which he Refused, but his Irons being before taken off & he brought up near the Goal Door he gave Triplett, the above Sum he had contracted for, when Triplett told him the Door was open for him; where David advancing found Hossman with his pistols ready to receive him—Upon this poor David, who is has some

time been much afraid the present Rulers will take life, was again put into the Dungeon. It seems probable Triplett & Hossman had agreed together thus to deceive David Dawson & divide the Spoil between them—Triplett says he asked ——— Gardner, One of the Council beforehand what he should do in this case & that Gardner advised him thus to deceive Dawson—

By Triplett getting this Money he paid the Debt he was put to Goal for—This deception & pretence of letting Dawson out was practised about the 20 or 21st at night, since which he has been kept more strict & his Sister not allowed to see him

9th mo. 26th. David Dawson, was taken to the State house where Thomas McKean passed sentence of death upon him, without any form of Tryal, he having been proscribed as they call it, by Act of Assembly & not returning & surrendering himself by the time they set, they say his life is forfeited

This Evening John Reynolds, who has kept the Whitehorse in Elbow Lane attended at Locking us up & we learn that Stokely Hossman is displaced from being Goaler & that Reynolds is to succeed him;

It being the time of the Yearly Meeting, we learn that Hossman has refused admittance to a number of our friends, who have applied to him

9th mo: 28th. James Sutton, who has been confined in this Goal some months, was tried by what they call the Admiralty Sessions, where Francis Hopkinson sat as Judge, for being concerned with ——— Linn in running away with an American privateer, on board of which they both were Officers & carrying her into Bermuda—& found guilty—it's somewhat remarkable that Sutton after committing such a fact, should be so inconsiderate as to come here of his own accord—he says he was born in Dublin—

From the 18th of the 6th month to the 17th of this mo: two Methodist preachers, have come to Goal & hav-

ing nearly all the prisoners collected in the Yard belonging to that called the Debtor Side of prison, have there preached &c to them every first day, three or four only excepted. They appear'd to be Zealous in their way & the prisoners have generally behaved better than they did most of the time before since I have been in this house, probably they may have reached the witness in some but, this place is such a sink of wickedness, that it can scarcely be expected any tender feelings can remain long with them, so that those who are desirous of reforming the remaining part of their lives, are truly much to be pitied—

9th mo: 29th. Last Evening we were alarmed with the noise of Drums & Fifes & much shouting of the Mob in the Street, not knowing but it might be something intended against some Friends or the Yearly Meeting collectively—George Haughton guessed it to be the Effigy of Benedict Arnold carry'g thro' the City—This morning we're informed the Mob had an Effigy of Arnold hanging on a Gallows, the Body of which was made of paper hollow & illuminated & an inscription in large letters thereon, which they conveyed thro' many parts of the City, on account of Arnold during Washington's absence at Hartford in Connecticut (whither he had gone to meet Ternery & Rochembault the Commanders of the French Fleet & Army arrived ab't 2 months past at Rhode Island,—in order to consult upon the intended operations) having concerted a plan for the surrender of the Fort at West Point on the North River to the British, the report of which we heard two days ago, but Arnold's design being discovered by the apprehension of Major Andrie, one of Sir Henry Clinton's Aids who was returning in disguise to New York, from a conference he had had with Arnold—the Scheme was thereby frustrated & Arnold had not time to spare in making his escape, which he effected by getting safe on board the Vulture Sloop of War in the North River.

Yesterday and this day our friends have been freely admitted to see us, so that we have been visited occasionally by many Country friends—Reynolds seems very civil to us & our friends entirely of his own accord, which seems a favour & my mind seems somewhat relieved since Hossman has left us, for he was I think the most unfeeling Man that I remember to have met with; upon what motive Reynolds acts I know not, nor whether it will be lasting, yet he appears to be a Man not addicted to excess in drinking, & as far as I have perceived is likely to keep better order in the house.

This Evening James Reed was brought back again from Chester in Irons, whither he had been carried to be an Evidence against David Dawson about some Counterfeit Congress Bills, which the former says he received of the latter, but as D. Dawson has been proceed'd against as a proscribed man Jas. Reed is brought here to be tryed for passing those Bills knowing them to be counterfeit—Reed seems much disappointed for he expected his information against & the apprehension of D. Dawson would have got him clear,—but I have heard D. Dawson say he never had any transactions with this Reed—

9 mo: 30. Our friends continue coming in to see us. This afternoon Ann Moore, Edith Sharpless, Rebecca Moore, Margaret Cook and ——— Jacobs accompanied by White Matlock who is called a Strong Whig of the present times & Brother to Timothy came to see me, Ann Moore not knowing there was any other friends confined here—till she was about to depart. John Elmslie has of his own choice not been present in the room when any of our friends have been here, & once refused to come in tho' one of his own Daughters was in the room & wanted to see him—so that thro' the whole week as well as frequently before Jos. Pritchard & myself have the Room to ourselves & our friends, till the Noise of the Rattling of the Keys in the Evening bring ———

Elmslie & George Haughton to their Lodgings—Ann Moore was earnestly engaged in Supplication particularly on mine & my aged father's account & expressed a strong hope & belief that I should be preserved thro' this tryal of bearing my Testimony on this occasion & afterwards in very clear expressions, which I may Remember well, but they may not be necessary to be committed to writing till it appears how I get thro' & over my present confinement—she spake largely & the whole of what she said was encouraging, & mentioned the Tryals she had passed thro' being taken on her passage to England in the last war abt. 1759—& carried into Bayonne where she remain'd prisoner some time. Edith Sharpless who has a Clear Prospect of the Currency issued for carrying on the present resistance to Government, also spake but was not quite so clear & free in what she delivered, which I was at a Loss to account for, till I heard with surprize to myself that after Edith in one of the sittings of the Yearly Meeting had spoke very well & in a becoming manner relative to the Currency, Ann who is esteem'd one of our foremost Ministers & an ancient Woman attempted to make a comparison of that currency & the Gold & Silver, being all made for the purpose of War & the Latter dug by Slaves, who were cruelly entreated & as she had been inform'd could not live above four Years at this business—by which Edith was bore down & the subject was thereby prevented from being settled in such a manner as might have been satisfactory & seem'd necessary—So that I now do not admire at Edith being short of my Expectations in what she had to deliver, but I rather admire that Ann should considering what she said in the Yearly Meeting have to speak as she did concerning me—

The conclusion I drew from the above was, that as things are now circumstanced, we must patiently bear with each others sentiments till the present Cloud of

darkness & delusion is providentially dispersed & a right mode of conduct becomes more generally clear to each other understanding—I understood that Deborah Morris asked White Matlock to come with them, because she could find no other Man, on account of the Mens Meeting then sitting—

This Evening there was another Exhibition thro the City of an Effigy of Arnold placed on a Wagon sitting in a Chair with One leg lying before him with a Cushion &c under it (emblematical of his usual position on account of his wounded leg) behind him a figure representing the Devil in a Clergyman's Gown, on the head a pair of Goat's horns, One holding a Purse of Money & the other an Iron called Tormentors. Arnold was represented with two faces & his head continually moving—there was a large paper Lanthorn hung near the figures—I should not have troubled myself to be thus particular on such an occasion, but because it appear'd not as a frolick of the lowest sort of people but as the Act of some of the present Rulers here, it being escorted by abt. 20 of those called Militia & three of those call'd City Light Horse viz: James Budden, John Dunlap & Thomas Leiper, the Militia had each a Candle in the end of his Musket & perhaps about 100 Lads each having a Candle in his hand; as they advanced along Pine Street, they halted by the Pine Street Meeting house & the Boys were seen to be prepared with Brick Bats, as its thought to have done Mischeif there, but the Yearly Meeting being ended & friends departed about an hour before, they did not attempt any thing, nor was any Mischeif done in the City that I heard of—It seems by their making so much Spunk about Arnold's going off, his design &c, that they think it a matter of consequence to them that it chafes them much from what I have heard & know of Arnold's conduct I beleive few men of virtue & Integrity can esteem him or the principles upon which he has acted—

what effect this proceEDURE may produce amongst the Rulers here, time will shew—they have within about a Year past had many alarming Shocks.

10 mo. 1th. This Afternoon Edward Hollock & David Sands, who lives within 10 Miles of West Point fort in the Jerseys, James Thornton, Robert Willis, Susanna Lightfoot, George Churchman, Warner Mifflin, my Cousins Fenwick Fisher & Isaiah Rowland, John Pemberton, My Father, Sister Esther, Brothers Thomas & Miers with their Wives, came to visit us, there was not much said, but after sometime James Thornton attempted to inform something of my situation, which I beleive he neither at that time or any other has clearly seen. D. Sands, S. Lightfoot & several others spake each a short time—J. Thornton desired me to give an account of my situation here & circumstances attending it, which I was not inclined to do, for such a prejudice has & does prevail against me that many who have visited me under that prejudice & have when with me had a sight of my situation—After they have gone away have afresh imbibed the Sentiments of some of most of the noted friends in the City, who have been & I fear yet are chafed, by that part of my letter touching the Western Quarterly Meeting being clearer of the present delusion than any other, so that I have frequently thought the present Ruler's principal Strength to keep me here, arises from the Contradiction in my conduct to that of many friends within their own certain knowledge, besides that I have cause to beleive some have undertaken publickly to censure my Conduct—these things frequently & forcibly operating on my mind, & very strongly at that time induced me to delay speaking as requested some time—But as E'd. Hollock & D'd. Sands could not have had full information concerning me, I read them the memorandum I had made of what passed at the Courthouse when they undertook to try me on the 22'd & 23'd day of 7th mo: 1779—

which I trust had such effect that the prejudices were once more dispelled. E. Hollock & D Sands spake with affection & tenderness of my situation, all the others had several times seen me here before except F. Fisher. Some of these I beleive have clearly seen my situation from my being first apprehended—This opportunity I hope was satisfactory to those of the Company, who had imbibed notions that have no foundation—James Thornton asked me if I could not draw up a State of my case to be presented for my release, I then observed that such a state of the matter as I was easy with would further clash with friends & I did not desire them to make any application on my account, that there had been one, which was not satisfactory (alluding to N. Waln's in 12 mo: last)—But I would have friends consider whether they can be easy in letting me remain so long here a prisoner without telling the present Rulers, that they looked upon me to be suffering innocently that this would long ago have been satisfactory to me if friends could have thought so, & the more so as the application which had been made without my knowledge at least carried with it an implication, that I was not suffering innocently—they were with us near 3 hours. E. Hollock & D'd. Sands I thought had not an opportunity of expressing their minds freely. They have never circulated the Lies of the Congress or other present Rulers & I am inform'd are otherwise preserved from being carried away with this Spirit of delusion.

10th mo: 2'd. This Morning Mahlon & Sarah Janney Rachel Hollingsworth & Joseph Janney call'd to see me—The three first had a short sitting with us. Sarah whom I have esteem'd from my first seeing her 1769—spake a few sentences in an acceptable & encouraging manner to me—& Sam Emlen who accompanied them also spake addressing himself to Joseph Pritchard by name—

About noon John Olden (who had been here some

weeks ago, & had asked John Elmslie whether he would go out of Goal if his fine & fees were paid, to which I understood Elmslie would not consent) came here & told Elmslie he would be released this day—& a little after the Goaler Jno. Reynolds came & told John Elmslie that he might go out when he pleased as he had no demands against him—Thos. Wishart who at that time was sitting with us, asked J. Elmslie how he was discharg'd, to which J. Elmslie said he could not tell by what means, but should enquire into it—I suspect that as Jno. Olden (who long since took the Test, & has in a dealing way made abundance in these confused times) has brought the News to J. E; that the demand by some means has been satisfied—I find it is generally thought by friends out of Doors that McKean order'd D. Dawson to be discharged without payment of fine, fees or any satisfaction at all—

10 mo: 3'd. Stillman from Egg Harbour, who has been some months confined in this Goal on account of some Counterfeit Congress Bills found in his possession was tryed & sentenced to stand in the Pillory an hour next Seventh day the Seventh Instant & pay a fine of £1000, so called. And this Evening James Reed was tryed & found Guilty of issuing Counterfeit Congress Bills.

10 mo: 4th. This day James Sutton was taken out & sentence of Death passed upon him, he & David Dawson have been in Irons in the Dungeon day & night since the 26th & 28th Ulto & yet continue there.

10th mo: 5th. Chamberlain from Egg Harbour was tryed & found guilty of passing Counterfeit Congress Bills, & afterwards put in irons into the Dungeon.

10th mo: 7th. Stillman stood in the pillory.

10th mo: 8th. Heard that Major Andrie was executed by hanging on a Gallows at Washington's Camp at Tappan, notwithstanding General Robertson came out of New York on purpose with a flag, to desire his

execution might be postponed—It seems probable this fact will materially irritate the Brittish Officers—

10th mo. 11th. Two Men from Tulpehocken near Reading in Berks County bro't to this Goal, by order of Joseph Reed, who with John Bayard called speaker of the Assembly & David Rittinghouse called Treasurer of the State are said to have gone on a Tour thro the Counties to hear the Complaints of the people, these two men are committed for being concerned in a Combination not to pay any Taxes, which they call Treason—

10th mo. 12th. They were let out of Goal—

10th mo. 14th. Reed & Chamberlain taken to the State house, where Thomas McKean passed Sentence of Death upon them, after which they were put into the Dungeon in Irons with Dawson & Sutton, where James Reed who is unwell with a fever has not been before.

I omitted to mention that on 10th mo: 1st. Susanna Lightfoot was concerned to speak of the general want of humility of the Inhabitants of this highly favour'd City with every Blessing both in an outward & a spiritual sense, till the time of the present Calamities, which have not had such an humbling effect, as would be the only & certain means of bringing again the Blessings of Peace & tranquility—she was in a very poor state of health, her voice very low, & she unable to stay more than half the time which the other friends were here—

It may not be amiss to mention that before the friends went away 10 mo: 1, James Thornton mentioned to me the Object respecting me was to convince friends in this City, that I am suffering for the Testimony of Truth, which I am fearful he will not have ability to do, because it will naturally follow from thence that there has been a very great Mistake in their taking & circulating the Congress Bills, which they have so generally done; But if I thought my continuance here would tend to bring them to unite against that Currency & the pres-

ent delusion—the prospect of such an union would afford me much satisfaction & notwithstanding there is such a difference of sentiment between some of my friends & me I am sensible of not having any improper feelings or Conduct towards them, but would wish them to avoid using the words Testimony of Truth respecting me, & agree that I am suffering innocently—

10 mo. 15. A Methodist preacher again preached & to the prisoners collected in the Yard—

10th mo: 16th. William Cassady who had been condemned to death for Join'g & listing in the British Army & John Jones & George Montgomery who had been condemned to death for Burglary were taken out of Goal & put on board the frigate Confedracy—

Within three or four days, there has been some dreadful fighting amongst the Criminals who frequently find means of getting liquor, once two of them were so dreadfully bruised & cut that their lives were thought to be in great danger, these are so desperately bad that I shall not be surprised if some lives are lost, unless some of the worst are removed from this place—

1780 10 mo: 19. This day David Sands, Edward Hollock, William Jackson, Benjamin Mason & John Parrish came to see us & had a Short sitting with us, in which D. Sands & Jno. Parrish spake rather more in commendation of me, than was acceptable considering the apparent uncertainty how I may abide thro' this Tryal—for I can at times clearly perceive that there are some of my friends, that without saying much, are truly engaged at heart that I may be enabled to bear my present allotment with that quietude & patience which alone can produce well founded cheerfulness & in the end wear off that edge of prejudice & Bitterness which has prevailed against me—Wm. Jackson spake a few words recommending Jos. Pritchard & myself to be stedfast in hope & patient in tribulation—I have thought that Wm. Jackson feels as deeply on account of the very great

degeneracy of the times, from that Integrity & simplicity was has been the ornament of friends & the foundation upon which they first gained reputation in England & in the settlement of this province, as any person I am acquainted with—What a favour it would be to the Inhabitants in general if they were brought clearly to see that their temporal & everlasting well being depends upon their treading back the paths in which they have erred & exerting themselves with earnestness to regain that Integrity & Simplicity, which would make them shine forth with real beauty in Eyes even of their greatest enemies.

10th mo: 20th. This Morning George Haughton who has lodged in our room since the 26th of 5th Month last removed his Bedding into a Room where Thomas Hale & sundry others are; he asked the Goaler's liberty so to do, we are not sorry for his removal, for he was intemperate in drinking & notwithstanding he has been upwards of Six Months in prison on account of his having shewn an attachment to the Brittish when here, he has been sometime soliciting for liberty to go on board the Congress frigate Confedracy—He seems much to want a principle of Integrity to act upon & like abundance of people nowadays is much to be pitied, on account of being tossed about with every wind—there being no leaders to whom such can look to for direction & help to steer their course—Jos. Pritchard & self now have the room to ourselves—

This Afternoon William Will formerly a dutch pewterer, latterly a Colonel in the Militia so called, lately chosen to act in the Capacity of a sheriff of this County, having just received his commission from the Council came to the Goal & had all the Prisoners called in to Yard & their read their names over in the presence of Jno. Reynolds & sundry others. I understood Jos. Pritchard's & my name were called but we stayed in our room & there was none sent to call us—We ex-

pected to be visited by them in our room but were disappointed in this expectation not disagreeably, by this Election James Claypoole who has occupied that Station 3 Years goes out, tho he was in hopes of holding it another Year on account of the Brittish Army being in this City more than half of his first Year—

This Evening the Goaler ordered three prisoners from another room into the Room where Jno. Lindley is & told John Lindley he might stay where he was, or move into our room as he chose, in consequence thereof he came into us; we had rather on our own account have been without him, as we cannot have that freedom with him, or with our friends in his presence that we may sometimes desire, yet he is a person that I believe will conduct himself better & more agreeably in our Company, than Geo. Haughton, who is now removed into a room, where he will be under no restraint from his Companions.

None of John Lindley's Estate has as yet been sold or taken out of his wife's possession tho' an account & appraisment thereof was taken the day he was brought to this house.

Yesterday heard that Henry Laurens once called President of the Congress was taken at Sea on his passage from hence to Holland, whither he is said to have been sent by the Congress upon some Embassy or negotiation—he was carried into Newfoundland & from thence sent to England.

10th mo: 22nd. This day John Lindley sat with us in both our sittings—I hear Edward Hollock has gone home & left his Son-in-Law David Sands, who has been since the conclusion of the Yearly Meeting visiting some few adjacent Meetings & the families of friends in this City, the latter I understand he expects to continue probably thro the whole City.

10th mo: 23rd. The Bells ringing most part of the day on account of a victory said to be obtained over the

Brittish Army near Charlotte in North Carolina when tis said about 300 were taken prisoners & about 200 Slain. If this is true tis probable the Confusions of War may longer continue there & prolong the Restoration of Peace to the Land, till the Inhabitants become more humbled & in a situation to enjoy the blessings of Peace with hearts truly thankful—

10th mo: 24th. This day James Scott, who I learn is a man of some considerable property & has been a considerable dealer, was let out, two persons having given Bail in £10.000 so called for his good behaviour during the War, tho' no charge whatever was attempted to be brought again him & he had laid in this Goal upwards of Six Months, a great part of it in a very distressing situation of Mind—

10th mo: 25th. This day Philip Swartz was let out of Goal on his being bound in £7000 (so called) & another person in £3000 (so called) that he shall keep the Peace of the Commonwealth (so called) during the War—he had been taken to the State house about two weeks before, where Thomas McKean demanded his giving Bail for his good behaviour during the War, but Swartz then declar'd his inability after many tryals to prevail on any person to be his Security, as he had no property of any kind, upon which McKean demanded his going on board the Confedracy frigate, which Schwartz put off by saying his fighting days were over, that he was too old & weakly, &c—

It has frequently happen'd under the present rulers, that without being able to lay any fact done against them to the charge of persons whom they have confin'd they could not be prevailed on by any means to grant Release, unless the parties took the Test to them, undertook to act under them, gave Security for their future behaviour, or some other way acknowledged their Authority, but I have not heard of an instance similar to this to confine a man of no property with very mean

cloaths indeed & them given to him upwards of 19 Months in Yorktown Goal, afterwards remove him here, where he has been only one day short of 7 Months more without being able to lay any thing he has either said or done against him—In this house he could not have subsisted I think upon his allowance of 6 ounces of Bread per day had he not daily had an addition thereto given him—In general in these times a mans poverty has been some sort of protection to him, for the present Rulers are much most fond of handling Men of Estate in order that if they cannot get the whole, they may have large pickings of their property.

It would have a truly happy effect if the Inhabitants of America could generally come to see & consider that all the distresses now in the Land, whether by the Armies of the Congress, by the present Rulers in what they call a legislative Capacity, or by the Marching & devastation which the Brittish Army have been the Instruments of, have undoubtedly been permitted to spread & come upon the people from One End of the Continent to the other by the Allwise Ruler of the World, not without a cause, but on account of the general prevalence of the forgetfulness of him from whom alone every real & solid benefit & blessing flows to Mankind—for had we been walking in humility & gratitude for the abundant Blessings we enjoyed, we should not then have administered Cause for such heavy Chastisements & greivous Calamities which now prevail, without having hitherto produced much apparent humility, tho' I hope there are many true mourners for the great wickedness & general departure from the principles of equity & Truth, in which alone a family, a County, a City a Province or a Nation can truly Shine & prosper—

What an unspeakable Blessing Mankind might enjoy if they were generally & unitedly desirous of walking & living in such humble gratitude in the sight of the

Author of all good, as might effectually keep down the spirit which produces War & is the cause of that & every other Calamity or Judgment that is permitted to come upon us.—We might then reasonably hope for a settlement of all matters that may occur, whether in a national or more confined respect, in a reasonable, just & amicable manner, without the use of the Sword—

I omitted to mention that some time in the 4th Month George Duffield, a presbyterian preacher, came to see Joseph Pritchard while he was sick—& said he had been with Joseph Reed, who desired him to inform J. Pritchard, that no release could be had for him, unless he would consent to go within the Enemy's Lines (meaning New York). Joseph told him he thought he already was within his Enemy's Lines, & that if he went to New York, it should be his own choice. That he expected they wanted to take the remainder of his Estate by their making such an offer—Joseph said many other things of Thomas McKean, Joseph Reed & the Rulers in general in a close & I thought becoming manner considering his troubles, which Duffield made not any immediate reply to, altho' some of them must have made him feel.

11th mo. 5th. This day George Haughton was taken out of Goal to go on board the Confedracy frigate, which fell down to Chester yesterday, on board of which Vessell a number of the very worst Men in this house have been at several times sent—G Haughton I believe has in view to make his escape & proceed to N. York, but I scarcely —— if he attempts it that he has conduct for such an undertaking—

11th mo. 13th. Heard that papers called Death Warrants were last evening brought to this house ordering the execution of David Dawson, James Sutton & —— Chamberlain, & that James Reed is pardon'd on Condition that he informs of whom he rece'd the Counterfeit Congress Bills, notwithstanding his having said he

rece'd them of the above David Dawson—the time fixed for the Execution is Seventh day the 25th Instant—

This Morning Samuel Chapman was conducted into our room by the Goaler, after whose departure, Chapman told us his home was in Bucks County, from whence he went the Brittish Army in 177- & came with that Army to this City where he entered into the British Service & was going in the Capacity of a Brittish Officer from N. York to Georgia the end of 1779 & taken at Sea & carried into Boston, where he has been kept in close Goal till he was Conducted from thence to this City by Order of Joseph Reed & his associates—This morning he was examined by Joseph Reed, who seems determin'd to handle him as badly as he can & threatened hanging him, notwithstanding he is exchanged—or at least —— Skinner called a Commissary told him at Elizabeth Town, that he was exchanged—

It is affecting to consider that Chapman should so far deviate from the principles in which he has been educated, as to become a Soldier & I conclude must be cause of additional distress to his father & family, both because they are pained for his deviation & that they have been more severely handled by the present Rulers on this account—

11th mo: 14th. I am informed that Joseph Reed is again elected as President of the Council, this being the third Year, & that Wm. Moore is chosen Vice President—Reed was proclaim'd at the Court house & dined at the City Tavern with the Council &c—there was some firing of Cannon & parade on this occasion tho' I am ready to believe not so much as usual the few preceeding Years on this same occasion—

11th mo: 21st. Heard that there was Yesterday a Meeting of the Merchants & others at the Assembly Room in the State house, where —— Muhlenberg, the Speaker of the Assembly acted as Chairman, when they agreed to fix the value of the Congress Bills which had

been current at 100 for One Spanish Dollar & upwards—at 75 for One, a Committee of 13 persons were chosen to draw up an association to be signed by all the householders, traders &c in the City, obliging & binding themselves to receive the Congress Bills at a 75th part of the value called on them & that 75th part to be paid & rece'd in all cases of Gold & Silver &c—this association is to be handed to every house & the names of such as refuse to sign it taken down & their reasons for so doing in writing.

11th mo. 22'd. Joshua Bunting of Chesterfield, New Jersey, Sam'l. Clark of Stony Brook, John Cummings & Patrick Garvey of this City put into our room. Joseph Stansbury & Joseph Greswold of this City we understand are also to be lodged in this house—Thomas Telere who came to see them next day was detained prisoner until he entered Bond not to depart this State, so called—

Clark, Cummings, Garvey, Greswold are charged by Joseph Reed who sent them here with being concerned in a dangerous trade to New York—Joshua Bunting is charged with keeping his house as a Stage for the Traders to New York &c—Joseph Stansbury is charg'd with being deeply concerned in a Lumber Trade carried on between Egg Harbour & New York—I understand they were each separately examined by Joseph Reed & Timothy Matlack & demanded to confess every matter to them, if they expected Mercy—their pockets & Papers also examined to see if they could find any thing or circumstance against them, & Joseph Stansbury's Books & Papers all taken into Custody—to see what they can find against him—

11th mo: 23rd. S. Clark & J. Cummings removed into a room with Jos. Stansbury & Jos. Greswold.

11th mo: 25th. David Dawson & Richard Chamberlain were taken out of this Goal amidst a Crowd of Spectators—they walked after a Cart in which were

two Coffins a Ladder &c, each had a rope about his neck & their Arms tied behind them—Dawson walked first, accompanied by a Brother, two Sisters & another Woman. Chamberlain was only accompanied by one of his Relatives—they were both hanged on the Commons of this City abt. 1 OClk—

The body of Dawson was taken care of by his relatives & sent forward in order to be buried by his relatives who reside at West Caln, Chester County—

The taking the life of D. Dawson seems to me to be a greater act of Cruelty in the present Rulers than anything they have heretofore done, for they never gave him even a shadow of a tryal in their own fashion & they have executed him merely as what they call a proscribed person because he came into the City while the Brittish Army lay here, the circumstances of which was, that he was coming from his abode with his Waggon, that being in danger of his life from some of Washington's Men he fled into the City & left & lost his Wagon, Horses, provisions &c—He never acted in any manner under Brittish, nor had he taken the Test to the present Usurpers, he did not go with the Brittish Army to New York, but had secreted himself in various places till he was betrayed by Jamed Reed last Spring & taken prisoner.

This Evening James Stillman, William Black & John Shaw were lodged in this house they are charged with having carried Cargoes of Boards from Egg Harbour to New York, which I hear has been a common practice for some months past, by many of the principal Men thereaway who are called civil & Military Officers of the present day & System these three Men had a quantity of Goods taken from them in this City, which they are charged with having brought out of New York.

11 mo: 29th. James Sutton, who had been tryed for running away with a Congress Privateer into Bermuda, found guilty & sentenced to die, was taken from the

Dungeon in this Goal & hanged on the Windmill Island opposite the lower part of the City.

11th mo: 30th. David Thomas, still a member of the present Assembly called to see Jos. Pritchard & myself—he appear'd concerned on account of our long imprisonment & urged our giving Bail for our future good behaviour so called—We had a second free open & friendly conversation on the occasion of our confinement & the measures in general pursued by those who have assumed authority on this Continent; many plain things were spoken touching the bad principles & motives of the present Rulers & the sad effects produced thereby in introducing vice & wickedness & depraving the principles of the Inhabitants, so that all Justice & Honesty had fled the Land, unless with some of those who suffer for not uniting with the present System—He declar'd his motive in acting to be to use his endeavours to keep things in moderation—We informed him that some who had endeavour'd to act upon such principles, had violated their Consciences & been carried away with the delusion & had died of Broken hearts—We parted with at least as much regard for each other, as we met & with mutual good wishes for each other & desires that the Inhabitants of this land might be brought to union of Sentiment & the Calamities of War cease—& it is above all things to be desired that the people could be so humbled under the just Judgments which have long prevailed on this Continent, that it might please the Great Author of all Good, to put an End to the effusion Blood & to remove this spirit of persecution which prevails & that Concord & brotherly love might take places in the minds of the Inhabitants.

12 mo. 2'd. Last night Henry Strous —— Stillman & a French prisoner broke out of a room adjoining us fronting Market Street, by cutting the Iron Bars of the Window, there were 6 persons more in the room

who possibly would have got out had not the Watchman discovered them & informed the Goaler—

12th mo: 4th. a Considerable number of those called magistrates came to the Goal Plunket Fleeson, William Adcock, Wm. McMullin & a Country Man came into our room stayed only a few minutes. Wm. Rush waited till most of them were gone downstairs & after pausing some time at the door came in, Jos. Pritchard asked him to set down, but declined the offer & addressed himself to me, saying I understand you might have been out long ago, & upon my saying I supposed I might upon their terms, he said what are the terms, I have forgot them, when I told him on giving Bail for my future good behaviour, as they call it—which I told him I should never do, & that I would have you who have assumed authority consider well what you are about you have been carrying on persecution & have taken the lives of innocent men; by this time he had gradually moved as far as the room door, where two Country Men whom I did not know stood listening to our conversation both of them, as well as the one that had been in the room before I conclude are called County Magistrates, One of the two I afterwards learnt to be Zebulon Potts, who asked me if I was a prisoner & those others in the room, to which I answered Yes & then proceeded with telling Wm. Rush that I had not expressed any thing of Ill will or Revenge against any of those, who were the cause of my suffering & that I hoped if it was ever in my power to take Revenge for what I had suffered, I should shew kindness to them; to which Wm. Rush said that so far well—when I said it would be well for you to desist from your undertakings before it is too late—after which they all went down stairs—

How far I may be justified in thus speaking, time must shew—tis probable I should not have been so plain with Wm. Rush, but on account of his pretence of Ignorance of terms of release offered me 1st mo: 31st

last by Isaac Howell, who I understood immediately informed Wm. Rush & sundry others my answer of refusing my release on any other terms, than that of my being unjustly treated & an innocent man, at which time this same Wm. Rush said, Then let him lay there & Rot.

12th mo: 6th. Joseph Greswold let out on being taken to Thomas McKean by the form of a Habeas Corpus Writ & there giving Bail in £2000—Specie for his appearance at the form of a Court of Oyer & Terminer to be held in 4th mo: next. I understand that all persons who go thro the form of giving Bail are bound in Specie so that it seems the Rulers are obliged to have recourse to Gold & Silver, when it suits their inclinations, altho there is yet unrepealed what they call a Law, laying a heavy penalty on any person who shall sell anything for Gold or Silver, which was passed in Spring 1779.

12 mo: 13th. Joseph Greswold again put to this Goal last night by a large instrument of writing charging him with high Treason, from those called the Council, with a great Seal affixed to it—This day he was taken to the Council to be examined, & there as he informed me, there was no fresh matter alledged against him, but merely a memorendum in a pocket book taken from Sam'l. Clark, whereby it appear'd Greswold had lent Clark 1200 Congress Dollars & 8 portage half Johannes—this was all the cause of his being first sent here by the council, when the paper sent to the Goaler, charged him with dangerous & treasonable practices—it seems as if the Council were displeased with T. McKean letting him out & are determined that no person shall undo what they undertake—

This day Samuel Clark & John Cummings taken to Thomas McKean by the form of Writs of Habeas Corpus & he took Bail of them in £4,000 Specie each for their appearance at the form of a Court of Oyer & Terminer to be held on the 4th mo: next—They are very

apprehensive of their being immediately taken & brought to Goal again in the same manner as Greswold has been, & therefore are determined if they have a few hours to get out of the City—I understand a great number of persons are taken up in Jersey, on account being suspected to have traded to New York—

12th mo: 15. David Brooks & Seth Coffin from New Garden in North Carolina, who are proceeding Northward on a visit to Friends came to visit us—D'd. Brooks spake & prayed in a lively & acceptable manner, he said he looked upon the present calamities as a time for the refinement of our society, in order that we might experience deliverance from our enemies both inwardly & outwardly—& yet be brought back to the living up to the purity of our principles

12 mo: 16th. David Sands, George Dilwyn, Sam'l. Smith & Charles West visited us. David Sands spake. George Dilwyn spake & prayed—D. S. upon parting with us said it has been a time of favour & we have cause to be thankful for it—

12th mo: 18th. This morning the person who is at present called Sheriff of Burlington County came for Joshua Bunting & took him out of the Goal to convey him to Trenton to be there examined by —— Livingston, who is now called President in Jersey—This Evening we seemed somewhat to miss Joshua, who appears to be of a mild easy disposition & a Man of good Conduct—All the pretext of putting him in this house, was because Patrick Garvey had been entertained, at his house, & Joshua had been at Garvey's house on the Morning of his being committed here—for this he was published in the papers for keeping his house as a Stage for the entertainment of Traders to New York, he is farmer who lives on the roadside & occasionally only gave P. Garvey entertainment within his doors—

We after about 6 days heard that upon Joshua Bunting's being taken to —— Livingston, —— Living-

ston asked him if he would come to him, when sent for, & Joshua answering in the affirmative Livingston told him he might go home, which he did accordingly—

12 mo: 27 This day Joseph Greswold was let out a second time, upon his giving Bail in £2,000 Specie to Joseph Reed for his future good behaviour so called—it seems as if Jos. Reed & his associates had been much vexed that Greswold should get out without petitioning them by the form of an Habeas Corpus Writ—and had therefore sent him to Goal a second time, in order to make him humbly apply to them for a Release.

28th. Joseph Stansbury who is a Man of abilities to manage matters with such men as he has now to do with,—about a week past had got permission to go to New York with his family & to make Sale of all his effects & his Keys return'd to him tho he could not get his Books return'd him till Yesterday—and having obtained a pass for himself only, this afternoon, he parted with us about 5 OC'lk & crossed the River the same evening, leaving his wife behind till she can settle his affairs & follow him, as he had not liberty to go to his house to conduct his own affairs—but was let go “upon his promise upon “his honour to take direct Road to New York—to use “his utmost endeavours to get Abijah Wright of Bucks “County & Caspar Geyer of this city, now prisoners at “New York released & to do nothing injurious to the “United States”—these terms seemed favourable considering the probability of what he might been doing & I believe he was glad to get clear of this City—

12 mo: 29th. Timothy Matlack came here this day & gave 80 of those called Congress paper Dollars for a peice of pewter cast in the form of a dollar—It has been a constant practice of the theives &c in this house for about 3 Months past to sell such pewter as real dollars & I conclude from its being generally known & talked of in town, Timothy had come here to know the truth of if by making a purchase. The purchasers of this

pewter finding themselves deceived had no remedy, but frequently had their pocket Books taken from them also, with very large nominal Sums in them—the Goaler to all appearance gives countenance to this traffick by what I have seen & heard of his conduct—Orders are come from Jos. Reed & his associates to Jno. Reynolds to use his utmost endeavours to stop the prisoners from this branch of Traffick, which however it may be in the view of any, I think the pewter is certainly of more real value than a few very small bits of dirty paper—& a time may come when it may be clearly seen that he that gave the pewter for the paper, gave what was of some real value for that which is good for nothing, unless it be certain use which decency forbids to mention—

It has been the engine by which the Presbytereans have been permitted to involve the whole Brittish Empire in great distress & perplexity—& America in particular, not only in almost every Calamity attendant on War, but by these Bills having been given sanction to in the beginning by most of the foremost people both as to religious profession, Property & reputation in this City,—who were looked up to for example almost every good principle has been driven from the Country, & the minds of the people are very generally carried away with deceit & hypocrisy, which has rendered weak & unable to withstand Vice & Wickedness, which has flowed as with a Strong Torrent.

(To be continued.)